

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department

## Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012

Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court Honorable Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice

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## **Executive Summary**

In Fiscal Year 2012, the Probate and Family Court continued to work on the goals of making our court more efficient and accessible in a manner that promotes access to justice. Our mission is:

To deliver timely justice to the public by providing equal access to a fair, equitable, and efficient forum to resolve family and probate legal matters and to assist and protect all individuals, families, and children in an impartial and respectful manner.

## **Initiatives and Accomplishments of Fiscal Year 2012 in pursuit of our mission:**

- ► Developing an Interdisciplinary Settlement Conference program to assist with the resolution of high conflict divorces.
- ► Implementing of the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code which included conducting over 50 training programs state wide and the creation of over 75 new forms.
- ► Implementing new Alimony Law.
- ► Collaborating with Bar Associations to develop conciliation programs with training in the Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Worcester Divisions.
- Conducting training regarding the process of authorizing the administration of antipsychotic medications for persons under guardianship determined to be incapable of making informed medical decisions.
- ▶ Beginning the development of a Strategic Plan for the Probate and Family Court: Vision for the Future.
- Establish an on-site conciliation program, SERVE, in the Suffolk Division.
- Expanding the use of Limited Assistance Representation in the divisions of the Probate and Family Court.
- ► Completing an adult Guardianship video in collaboration with the Massachusetts Guardianship Association and Northnode. The video explains to potential guardians the court procedures and the obligations of a guardian, once appointed.

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- Expanding programs for counsel for children.
- Continued collaboration with Senior Partners for Justice for the review of Guardianship Care Plan reports.
- ► Rollout of upgrades to the case management system for the Trial Court, MassCourts.
- Providing voice recognition software to all judges to facilitate the drafting of findings and decisions.

## <u>Initiatives and Improvements being planned for Fiscal Year 2013 include:</u>

## **Promoting the Well-being of Children and Families:**

- ► Developing standards for Supervised Visitation fee generating appointments.
- ► Continuing mandatory training for GALs in Category E (Evaluator) and Category F (Investigator).
- ► Continuing participation in grants to improve the processing of IV-D child support matters. These grants focus on expediting child support modification cases and providing parents with services that may assist them in providing support for their children, such as job training and education.
- Expanding the pilots of Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences.
- Creating electronic exchange of amended birth record information with RVRS.
- ► Implementing a Domestic Violence Screening Tool in all child related Dispute Interventions through the Probation Department.
- Creation of the "Child's Voice" Task Force.
- ► Piloting a comprehensive six session parent education program for middle conflict families in the Hampshire Division.

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## **Increasing Access to Justice:**

- Continuing to improve the Probate and Family Court website.
- ► Partnering to complete on-line self-help module for child support cases developed with a Technology Innovation Grant from Legal Services Corporation.
- ► Continued Community Outreach in local communities and community colleges to educate the public about the work of Probate and Family Court.
- ► Continuing our Bench/Bar meetings to hear concerns of the local Bar and to engage in constructive solutions to help facilitate access to justice for all persons.

## **Improving Caseflow Management:**

- ► Conducting Strategic Planning Program about the future of Probate and Family Court with Bench and Bar, sponsored by Flaschner Judicial Institute.
- Expanding cases that can be heard administratively.
- ► Implementing staggered scheduling.
- ► Adopting "Identity Management" of court users through the MassCourts case management system.
- Developing a software system for management reports and analysis.

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## I. Promotion of the Well-Being of Children and Families

## A. Protecting those who are under Guardianship

Treatment with antipsychotic medication

The Guardianship Committee finalized the Standing Order for Review of Uncontested Rogers Orders and standardized relevant forms to authorize administration of antipsychotic medications for those persons under guardianship who have been determined to be incapable of making informed medical decisions for themselves.

Each First Justice identified at least one staff member to be the judicial designee assigned to process those annual reviews of court orders authorizing use of antipsychotic medications which are uncontested.

## **B.** Parent Education Programs

## **Divorcing Parents**

The Administrative Office approved 71 providers of mandated Parent Education programs. All counties except Nantucket have at least one program available to litigants.

#### **Never Married Parents**

"For the Children", a program for never-married parents provided parent education session to 49 parents in the Suffolk Division and 139 parents in the Hampshire Division.

#### C. Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences

Chief Justice Carey convened a group of judges, lawyers, and mental health professionals to address the increased animosity and high conflict being seen in the Probate and Family Court. The group created a pilot program that includes the use of Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences. Each conference involves a neutral lawyer and mental health professional who meet with the litigants and lawyers for the parties for one-half day. It is expected that the conferences will help parents resolve their differences with the help of qualified lawyers and mental health professionals so that settlements can be reached that withstand the test of time. To date 15 conferences have been held and a survey sent to 61 participants.

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## D. Continued Mandatory Training for Guardian Ad Litems

## Fee Generating Appointments

In September 2009, Chief Justice Carey convened a group of attorneys and mental health professionals to review the educational trainings and continuing education requirements for Category E and F guardians *ad litem*. As a result of the recommendations of the group, any person who would like to be included in Categories E or F must take a mandatory 2-day training offered by the Probate and Family Court in conjunction with MCLE prior to submitting their application for approval.

Starting in 2011, any person on either the fee generating appointment list for Category E or Category F must take a mandatory training offered each year by the Probate and Family Court. A certificate of attendance must be submitted to the Probate and Family Court by December 31 of each year in order to remain on the fee generating appointment list.

Category D moved to mandatory training in FY 2012. A full-day course offered by Suffolk University or a full-day course offered by MCLE. MCLE also offered an ondemand option. The topic for the Category E and F mandatory training in FY 2012 was "Interviewing".

## E. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Karen Levitt, an attorney, mediator, and member of the Trial Court Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution, made a presentation about Collaborative Law in May 2011 at the meeting of the Probate and Family Local Dispute Resolution Coordinators. Tim Linnehan, Acting Director of Support Services, also presented a review of the goals and accomplishments of the Standing Committee.

Conciliation programs were expanded state-wide to include almost every division of the Probate and Family Court. An on-site program, SERVE, was started in the Suffolk Probate and Family Court.

## F. ARC: Attorneys Representing Children in Norfolk Probate and Family Court

The ARC program is run by the Norfolk Bar Association with the support of the Judges of the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court, under the leadership of First Justice Angela Ordoñez. Attorneys agree to accept at least one appointment per year on a

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volunteer basis to represent children in cases such as divorce, paternity, separate support, custody, and visitation matters. There are similar programs to provide representation to children in contested custody and visitation matters in the Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Hampden, and Hampshire divisions.

# G. <u>Contract with Department of Revenue (DOR)/Child Support Enforcement Division</u>

#### **Modification Pilot**

The Probate and Family Court partnered with the Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement Unit, (DOR/CSE) in obtaining a federal grant aimed at addressing the effects of the economic downturn on child support payments. The grant period ended in early 2012. A final report was submitted in summer of 2012. Based on the success of the pilot, the project will be expanded to other divisions of the Probate and Family Court.

## H. Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code and Uniform Trust Code

In preparation for the March 31, 2012 effective date of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code, a UPC Estate Working Group, established by Chief Justice Carey, consisting of Judges, court staff and practitioners continued to work hard to pull together the numerous rules, procedures, protocols and forms required to implement the major change in Probate practice.

#### Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code: Estates

#### -MUPC Rules:

Amended, repealed, adopted and consolidated rules into the Supplemental Rules of the Probate and Family Court. Amended and deleted various Uniform Practices.

## -MUPC Forms:

Created over 75 MUPC and MUTC forms.

#### -MUPC Procedures:

Developed a written and on-line Estate Administration Procedural Guide for the MUPC.

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Partnered with the Judicial Institute to create written and on-line final copy.

## -MUPC Fees:

Amended G. L c. 262, s.40 and the Uniform Fee Schedule.

#### -Transitional Rules:

Created and amended Standing Order 5-11 to deal with estate administration and trust cases in transition. Developed Supplemental Notice form and instructions for use by lawyers/pro se litigants as part of the transition process.

#### -Education Committee:

Conducted X number of MUPC trainings for court staff, judges and lawyers and various stakeholders including the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

#### -MUPC Hub:

Created an on-line resource for forms, instructions, training materials, etc... for the MUPC.

## **2012 MUPC/MUTC Technical Amendments:**

- Created a Procedural Advisory on MUPC
- Created a Procedural Advisory on MUTC (in-progress)
- Revised the Procedural Guideline- Developed Chapter on Trusts; edited guideline (in progress)
- Created new forms and procedure for new guardianship law on short term admittance to nursing home. Notice of Intent to Admit- developed form and instructions; conducted in house and external training; partnered with Mass Hospital Association to conduct training for hospital staff and stakeholders

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## II. Access to Justice and Quality of Justice

#### A. Website

- Utilized email and website to develop a centralized resource for procedural questions related to the MUPC and MUTC for court staff, litigants and the bar.
- Added more fillable and saveable court forms to website;
- Posted lists of certified LAR attorneys on website;
- Posted comprehensive information on the Massachusetts Probate Code and the new alimony law.

## B. Providing Meaningful Access to the Courts for Pro Se Litigants

The Probate and Family Court Department has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that our Courts are accessible to all. In particular, because of the large number of litigants appearing in our court without attorneys, (*pro se*), we have many programs to ensure meaningful access to the Probate and Family Court. Among the programs in the Probate and Family Court is:

- Lawyer of the Day
- Family Law Self-Help Centers
- Family Law Facilitators
- Limited Assistance Representation
- Domestic Violence Assistance
- Pro Bono Counsel for Children
- GAL appointments in Elder Guardianship cases
- Counsel for Incapacitated Persons and Minors in Guardianship and Conservatorship cases.

## C. <u>Limited Assistance Representation</u>

On April 10, 2009, the Supreme Judicial Court issued an order, effective May 1, 2009, "In Re: Limited Assistance Representation". The Order provides that each Trial Court Department Chief Justice, may, with the approval of the Chief Justice for Administration and Management, make Limited Assistance Representation available in the Divisions of his/her Trial Court Department. The Probate and Family Court Department requested and received the approval to make Limited Assistance Representation available in all

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Divisions of the Probate and Family Court.

Limited Assistance Representation (LAR) is when an attorney represents or assists a litigant with part, but not all, of his or her legal matter. The attorney and litigant enter into a detailed agreement defining what tasks the attorney will be responsible for and what tasks the litigant will be responsible for.

There are approximately 1000 attorneys certified to utilize LAR in the Probate and Family Court. A database of these attorneys has been created and lists of LAR certified attorneys have been sent to each Division of the Probate and Family Court and posted on the website of the Probate and Family Court.

## D. <u>Forms</u>

The Administrative Office continues to prepare fillable forms for the Probate and Family Court website to eliminate printing costs, and make them easily accessible to the public, including both members of the bar and self represented litigants. We have created forms for posting on the web that can be saved after completion. A total of over 275 court forms are available on our website.

#### **New Forms**

Two years after the implementation of Article V of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code, the Probate and Family Court developed new and revised forms for Guardianship and Conservatorship matters. All of the guardianship and conservatorship forms have been reviewed and, as a result of input received from the bench, court staff, the bar, various agencies and self-represented litigants, most of the forms have been revised in an effort to stream-line the information presented and reduce the burden on petitioners to the extent possible while maintaining the highest protection for the persons being placed under or currently under a guardianship or conservatorship.

## E. <u>Courthouses</u>

With the opening of the new courthouse in Taunton, Massachusetts the Bristol County Registry of Probate and a full-time session of the Probate and Family Court are in the same building.

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## **QUALITY OF JUSTICE**

## A. <u>Judicial Conferences</u>

## **Probate and Family Court Judicial Conferences:**

On Friday, September 9, 2011 the justices of the Probate and Family Court convened their annual fall conference at the Plymouth Probate and Family Court. The first presentation, given by Terri Bogage, MSW, LICSW, Director of Family and Children's Services at the Institute for Health and Recovery, and Kim Bishop-Stevens, MSW, LICSW, Substance Abuse Manager, Department of Children and Families, discussed Substance Abuse and Parenting. This presentation was followed by a program on Evidentiary Issues in the Probate and Family Court by Hon. Peter W. Agnes, Jr. Judge Agnes was recently appointed to the Appeals Court. Judge Agnes is one of the editors of the Massachusetts Guide to Evidence.

Chief Justice of the Trial Court Robert A. Mulligan and Hon. Fernande R.V.Duffly, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, made remarks before lunch.

Judges honored recent retirees: Hon. Gail Perlman (Hampshire County) and Hon. Elizabeth O'Neill LaStaiti (Bristol County) who were acknowledged and recognized by their colleagues for their many contributions to the system and the court.

On Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 the Probate and Family Court held its annual two-day educational conference in Worcester.

On Thursday morning, the Hon. George Phelan of the Norfolk Probate and Family Court was part of a panel on "Military and Veteran's Issues in the Probate and Family Court". He shared interesting and moving stories and slides of his military career immediately prior to going on the bench.

This presentation was followed by a discussion entitled, "Contempt after Turner and Determining the Ability to Pay".

At lunch, the group honored and acknowledged the recent retirements of the Hon. John P. Cronin of Essex County, Hon. E. Chouteau Levine of Suffolk County, Hon. Mary M. Manzi of Essex County, and Hon. John M. Smoot of Suffolk County.

Hon. Robert A. Mulligan, Chief Justice of the Trial Court addressed the group, followed

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by Harry Spence, the Court Administrator.

Dr. John Julian, a psychiatrist from Massachusetts General Hospital, who serves as a consultant to the Department of Developmental Disabilitites, spoke on Antipsychotics in Vulnerable Populations: Children, Elders, and the Developmentally Disabled. The afternoon ended with the justices participating in a discussion on Alimony.

On Friday, Hon. Martha P. Grace (Ret.), former Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court, addressed the group regarding the "Link Between Family Violence and Animal Abuse."

Other presentations included "Analyzing Forensic Reports" given by Carol J. Ball and Jodie Shapiro from New England Forensic Associates, "Health Insurance, Entitlements, and Related Issues" by Emily S. Starr, Esq., and "Evidence Based Substance Abuse Treatment" by Stephen K. Valle, President and CEO of Adcare Criminal Justice Services and Rick O'Neil, Regional Supervisor at OCP.

## **B.** Teleconference Trainings:

Utilized teleconference technology to create hour long internal and external trainings on topics from MUPC to new 209A Pet Amendment so that staff and judges could attend without leaving their worksite.

## C. Law Clerks and Law Fellows

- Started FY 2012 (July 2011) with 4 full-time and 1 part-time law clerk
- New England Law Boston funded two graduate fellows, starting in October 2011. These fellows work for 10 months.
- In December 2011, UMASS Law Dartmouth agreed to fund one graduate fellow, starting in September 2012. This fellow will work for 12 months.

## III. <u>Effectiveness and Accountability</u>

## **A.** Performance Measurements

The Probate and Family Court continues to measure our progress on the four case management metrics: Clearance Rate, Time to Disposition, Cases Pending Beyond the

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Time Standards, and Trial Date Certainty. We provide judges with lists of their divorce and other cases pending beyond the time standards. Each quarter we provide the First Justices with a summary of the percentage of cases, by case type, that were disposed of within the Time Standards.

#### **B.** Technology Enhancements

#### **Access to Court Data**

The Department of Revenue (DOR), Child Support Enforcement Division, as part of the ISA contract with the Probate and Family Court, has licenses for remote access to make docket checks on child support cases. The licenses use CITRIX software to provide the access. DOR/CSE staff can access MassCourts from their Regional Offices. This access lessens the case processing burdens on the court, thus allowing greater efficiency for DOR/CSE and the court.

## C. Dictation software for judges

Judges of the Probate and Family court must make written findings in over 75 different causes of action. To assist the judges of the Probate and Family Court with producing all these written findings, we obtained and installed dictation software for their use.

## IV. Community Partnerships and Outreach

# A. <u>Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement Division, Registry of Vital Records and Court</u>

Training sessions collaboratively designed by representatives of the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS) and the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Revenue (DOR), provided registry staff an update concerning the revisions made by RVRS to the 209C form and processing requirements.

#### B. MUPC and MUTC Partnerships and Outreach

#### **MCLE**

- Partnered with MCLE to provide legal education on the MUPC.

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- Partnered with MCLE to co-author and revise the Probate Manual and develop the Probate Source Book.
- Partnered with MCLE to provide training to Guardian Ad Litem's
- Partnered with MCLE to provide additional training to Court staff.

## MBA/BBA

- Partnered with MBA and BBA to provide legal education on the MUPC.
- Partnered with MBA and BBA to create the MUPC Resource Desk initiative that provided volunteer lawyers to assist court staff, lawyers and *pro se* litigants with MUPC related issues.

## **Mass Bankers Association**

- Partnered with the Mass Bankers Association to provide legal education on the MUPC
- Partnered with the Mass Bankers Association to assist with editing the probate section of the 2012 Mass Bankers Handbook

## **Suffolk University Law School**

- Partnered with Suffolk University Law School to provide legal education on the MUPC

#### **Mass Hospital Association**

- Partnered with Mass Hospital Association to provide legal education on the MUPC as it relates to guardianships and recent technical amendments for admission to nursing facility
- Partnered with the Mass Hospital Association and other key stakeholders in creating the Notice of Intent to Admit form and Instructions.

## **Secretary of State (DPOA legislation)**

- Partnering with the Office of the Secretary of State and other key stakeholders to establish and serve on a committee to assist with drafting legislation to amend the Durable Power of Attorney Act

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## V. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

## **Judicial Retirements and Appointments**

The following Judges retired from the Probate and Family Court during fiscal year 2012:

Hon. Christina Harms, Norfolk Division

Hon. John Smoot, Suffolk Division

Hon. E. Chouteau Levine, Suffolk Division

The following Judges were appointed to the Probate and Family court during Fiscal Year 2012:

Hon. Theresa A. Bisenius, Associate Justice, Essex Division

Hon. Megan Christopher, Circuit Judge

Hon. Beth A. Crawford, Associate Justice, Hampshire Division

Hon. Richard J. McMahon, Associate Justice, Bristol Division

Hon. Jennifer Rivera-Ulwick, Associate Justice, Norfolk Division

Hon. Patrick Stanton, Associate Justice, Plymouth Division

#### VI. STATISTICS

The following charts detail the caseload statistics of the Probate and Family Court for fiscal year 2012. <u>Case Filings: FY 2012</u>

Table 1 shows the total filings by case type for each Division of the Probate and Family Court. Table 1 also illustrates the percentage of each Division's caseload which is domestic cases and the percentage which is probate. Domestic cases include: Divorce, Paternity, Adoption, and Child Welfare. Probate cases include: All Probate case types, Equity, and Change of Name. Domestic and probate cases, with the exception of Guardianships, utilize the resources of the court in different ways. Probate cases often involve more paperwork and less courtroom time, while domestic cases will likely be the opposite. Domestic cases have high percentages of *pro se* petitioners, so a high percentage of domestic cases will mean larger numbers of *pro se* litigants in a division.

#### **Case Filings: FY 2005-FY 2012**

Table 2 shows filings for the last seven fiscal years.

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DIVISIONS:	BARN	BERK	BRIS	DK	ESSEX	FRAN	HAMD	HAMP	MIDD	NT	NORF	PLYM	SUFF	WORC	TOTAL
					T						1		1		
Administration &	1,665	644	1,639	114	2,377	306	1,437	530	4,798	51	2,519	1,717	1,508	2,789	22,094
<b>Probate of Will</b>															
<b>Accounts and Other Probate</b>	914	392	757	33	1,440	149	970	578	2,093	25	1,704	885	1,211	1,112	12,263
Other Accounts															
Change of Name	103	73	188	15	356	48	205	106	782	10	299	190	459	404	3,238
Guardianship and Conservatorship	570	189	1,257	12	1,294	144	1,360	196	1,793	8	772	953	1,377	1,835	11,760
Equity	97	17	79	7	125	9	53	23	135	3	110	64	142	112	976
Total Probate, Equity, and Change of Name	3,349	1,315	3,920	181	5,592	656	4,025	1,433	9,601	97	5,404	3,809	4,697	6,252	50,331
Adoption and Child Welfare	61	49	94	5	140	21	104	85	329	4	116	90	154	186	1,438
Divorce, Sep. Support	1,152	576	2,239	93	3,252	347	2,121	532	5,433	138	2,139	2,154	2,951	3,945	27,072
and other Dom. Rel.															
Paternity	432	474	2,333	22	2,531	233	2,717	299	2,446	11	799	1,582	3,122	3,163	20,164
All Contempt	913	540	1,823	88	2,647	232	1,549	346	3,284	38	1,945	1,881	1,606	3,072	19,964
All Modification	1,135	970	2,634	54	3,765	402	4,356	704	4,522	39	2,116	2,208	3,479	5,313	31,697
<b>Abuse Prevention</b>	352	127	520	2	352	55	828	70	136		275	594	233	453	3,997
<b>Total Domestic Relations</b>															
and Child Welfare	4,045	2,736	9,643	264	12,687	1,290	11,675	2,036	16,150	230	7,390	8,509	11,545	16,132	104,332
Percentage 'Probate'	45.3%	32.5%	28.9%	40.7%	30.6%	33.7%	25.6%	41.3%	37.3%	29.7%	42.2%	30.9%	28.9%	27.9%	32.5%
Percentage 'Domestic'	54.7%	67.5%	71.1%	59.3%	69.4%	66.3%	74.4%	58.7%	62.7%	70.3%	57.8%	69.1%	71.1%	72.1%	67.5%
Total Cases Filed	7,394	4,051	13,563	445	18,279	1,946	15,700	3,469	25,751	327	12,794	12,318	16,242	22,384	154,663

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CASE TYPE	FY 2005 Filings	FY 2006 Filings	FY 2007 Filings	FY 2008 Filings	FY 2009 Filings	FY 2010 Filings	FY 2011 Filings	FY 2012 Filings
Admin & Prob. of Will	22,316	21,716	21,536	20,977	20,351	23,318	23,427	20,851
Trusteeship	818	426	405	460	399	249	281	277
All Guardianship	9,182	9,367	9,381	9,311	8,755	7,391	7,943	10,255
Conservatorship	117	112	136	113	181	2,448	1,719	1,505
Accounts and Dist.	15,312	15,733	14,982	14,855	14,268	13,606	13,135	12,263
All other	5,496	4,846	4,801	4,565	4,899	1,669	1,315	966
All Probate Estates and Guardianship	53,241	52,200	51,241	50,281	48,853	48,681	47,820	46,117
Equity	1,188	1,315	1,168	1,290	1,194	965	1,032	976
Change of Name	2,705	2,856	3,126	3,205	3,023	3,128	3,170	3,238
Proxy Guardianships	12	8	12	12	9	0		
ALL"PROBATE"	57,146	56,379	55,547	54,788	53,079	52,774	52,022	50,331
All CHILD WELFARE	2,100	1,822	1,992	1,966	1,847	1,552	1,598	1,438
Paternity Complaints	17,494	19,510	20,147	22,025	23,850	19,589	19,863	20,164
Contempt	8,046	8,621	8,613	8,047				
Modification	11,043	12,313	13,452	15,048				
ALL PATERNITY	36,583	40,444	42,212	45,120				
Divorce	19,524	20,484	21,146	21,067	21,232	23,863	23,896	24,048
Sep Sup	1,692	1,671	1,732	1,846	1,883	2,314	2,269	2,265
Contempt	13,031	13,522	13,974	13,366				
Modification	12,883	13,357	13,723	14,655				
ALL DIVORCE	47,130	49,034	50,575	50,934				
ALL MODIFICATION*	23,926	25,670	27,175	29,703	33,687	29,627	30,749	31,697
All CONTEMPT*	21,077	22,143	22,587	21,413	22,199	21,081	20,303	19,964
Protection From Abuse	5,323	4,853	4,564	4,505	4,318	4,453	3,988	3,997
Minors/w/o Delay	661	772	871	851	860	902	826	711
All Other Dom. Rel.	1,269	1,292	1,420	1,431	1,570	101	454	48
Total Probate, Equity, and Change of Name	57,146	56,379	55,547	54,788	53,079	52,774	52,022	50,331
Percentage Probate	38.0%	36.5%	35.3%	34.3%	32.3%	33.8%	33.4%	32.5%
Total Child Welfare, and "Family"	93,066	98,217	101,634	104,807	111,446	103,482	103,946	104,332
Percentage "Family"	62.0%	63.5%	64.7%	65.7%	67.7%	66.2%	66.6%	67.5%
Total All	150,212	154,596	157,181	159,595	164,525	156,256	155,968	154,663